UNITED NATIONS

HSP

HSP/GC/25/2/Add.5

UN-HABITAT Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Distr.: General
13 January 2015

Original: English

Twenty-fifth session
Nairobi, 17–23 April 2015
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report reviews progress in respect of cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and other entities within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and Habitat Agenda partners during the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2014.

II. Cooperation with organizations and agencies within the United Nations system in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals and the development of the post-2015 development agenda

A. General Assembly

2. During the reporting period, the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) were guided by General Assembly resolution 68/239. In the resolution, the Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and affirmed resolution 24/14 of the Governing Council of the UN-Habitat on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process. The Assembly welcomed the strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period 2014–2019, took note of the governance review process of UN-Habitat and encouraged the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue its consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus on how to proceed with the governance review. The Assembly also designated 31 October as World Cities Day.

3. *At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution* 69/226, continued to encourage giving due consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly also reiterated its encouragement to Member States, UN-Habitat and all relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to implement Governing Council resolution 24/4 and requested the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender

---

* HSP/GC/25/1

K1500079 130215

equality and women's empowerment in the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to continue efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate. In addition, the Assembly recognized that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat had changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries had changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014–2019.

B. Economic and Social Council

4. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2014/30 on human settlements, took note with appreciation of the first ever integration segment of the Council on sustainable urbanization and its focus on the role of sustainable urbanization as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development. The Council encouraged Governments to give appropriate consideration to the role of urbanization and human settlements in sustainable development in their national development plans in order to ensure coordinated implementation of different sectoral policies within cities and human settlements in general and to formulate and implement national urban development policies.

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

5. UN-Habitat continued to participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars, the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The High-level Committee on Programmes identified sustainable urbanization as a strategic focus area for its work. An important instrument for increasing the engagement of the United Nations system in sustainable urban development is the policy paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: towards a new United Nations urban agenda", to be drafted by an ad hoc working group of the Committee (CEB/2014/6, para. 53).

D. Other inter-agency mechanisms

6. UN-Habitat intensified its participation in UNDG at the global and regional levels, serving as a rotating member of the UNDG Advisory Group for the year starting on 1 January 2013. In that capacity, UN-Habitat represented the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In 2014, UN-Habitat co-led, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UNDG consultations on localizing the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals at the national, regional and global levels. The results of the consultations, gathered in a report entitled *A Million Voices: The World We Want*, informed the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 development agenda (A/69/700). At the country level, UNDP has been a key partner for UN-Habitat, particularly in the Latin American region, where it supports implementation of activities in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico. The agencies also work together in the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine to enhance urban living conditions.

7. UN-Habitat continued its engagement with the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism by providing input to the post-2015 development agenda and initiating a joint project with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to strengthen engagement with human rights mechanisms by tracking the implementation of recommendations and concluding observations of United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly within the context of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council. UN-Habitat also actively contributes to the Joint Working Group on Transition Issues, using its work on urban resilience to facilitate alignment between the humanitarian and development communities.

8. UN-Habitat has promoted a working group on sustainable urban development of the Regional UNDG Team for Latin America and the Caribbean, together with UNFPA, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNEP and the secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). UN-Habitat led a task team on urbanization for the UNDG regional team for Asia and the Pacific, composed of 14 agencies, whose work included preparation of a paper to guide United Nations country teams in jointly addressing the numerous challenges as well as the opportunities of urbanization in the Asia-Pacific region. UN-Habitat also participates in the UNDG Arab States Team.

Inter-agency collaboration for humanitarian response

During the period under review, recognition by the United Nations system of UN-Habitat substantive expertise in urban crises grew significantly. UN-Habitat is a member of the Inter-agency Standing Committee principals and working groups and of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. A critical role of the principals is to assess and determine the level of response required for any given humanitarian emergency. There were an unprecedented number of devastating level 3 emergencies (the Syrian Arab Republic, the Philippines, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Iraq) as well as level 2 emergencies in Pakistan, Serbia and the State of Palestine. UN-Habitat has actively participated in and contributed to technical assistance to support affected Member States. UN-Habitat chairs the Inter-Agency Standing Committee reference group on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas, which has raised the profile of urban issues and has had a major impact on institutional thinking and approaches to emergency response in urban areas. UN-Habitat, as the focal entity for the housing, land and property area of responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster, chaired by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has provided critical support to a number of countries facing these urban challenges and continues to provide technical leadership to the shelter and early recovery global clusters. It also contributes to water, sanitation and hygiene and urban livelihood projects in urban emergencies; sustainable settlement planning; and water and sanitation provision for camps hosting Syrian refugees and for non-camp-based urban refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. A programme for the resettlement of Iraqi internally displaced persons has taken an innovative approach to durable solutions by putting the local government, the private sector and the community in leadership roles in integrating urban housing with local economic development. A joint programme on land conflict resolution was also established for internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

UN-Habitat has contributed to the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism established to enhance the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to crises. It is also working closely with the secretariat of the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in 2016 by developing an urban track within the relevant themes, including by recruiting experts in urban risk, resilience, urban health, food security and urban violence. Linkages are also being developed with the Habitat III secretariat. Furthermore, UN-Habitat has seconded staff to the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to help address the urban challenges of the epidemic.

9. UN-Habitat participated in an expert group meeting on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in New York on 3 and 4 April 2013, and made a statement at the inaugural meeting of the forum at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

10. Prior to the establishment of a Habitat III secretariat in July 2014, the United Nations system and the World Bank were mobilized to prepare for the conference. Three coordination meetings were held, in Geneva in July 2013, in New York in November 2013 and during the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, held in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014.

11. UN-Habitat continued to play an important role in the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, giving particular support to the development and implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth. The first report on the Action Plan was issued in 2014. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN-Habitat co-convened an expert group meeting on youth and civic engagement at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in June 2014 that addressed, among other issues, the uniqueness of urbanization in the developing world, where cities serve as enablers for increased engagement by youth in political, social and economic life. The meeting served to inform the *World Youth Report 2015*.

12. A United Nations working group on transparency was established in January 2013 with the assistance of UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as a platform for United Nations agencies to discuss transparency, accountability and openness, with a focus on the International Aid Transparency Initiative. UN-Habitat has chaired the working group since February 2014. Three meetings were held in 2013/14, bringing together representatives from 19 multilateral agencies. Tailored transparency workshops were held with UNEP in Nairobi in March 2013 and with UNESCO in Paris in August 2013.

13. UN-Habitat took part in the meeting of the inter-agency consultative group of the United Nations system and international organizations on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and in the meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries held in March 2013.

14. Under the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery in Somalia, UN-Habitat is an active member of the United Nations country team and works in support of the New Deal for Somalia and the Government's six-point plan. It participates in urban planning; land governance and legislation; municipal finance, including geographic information system (GIS)-based property taxation; solid waste management; and capacity-building for local governments, including personnel and physical infrastructure. UN-Habitat also participates in joint programming for the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP and the World Bank.

III. Cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General and organs of the United Nations

15. The report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2013/68) served as substantive reference during negotiation of the Economic and Social Council resolution on human settlements. UN-Habitat, as the lead entity in the United Nations system in the area of sustainable urban development, continues to work through the Council for system-wide promotion of the Habitat Agenda. Two significant events relating to urban development were held during the 2013 high-level segment of the Council: the high-level ministerial round table on harnessing the dual global trends of urbanization and the demographic youth bulge and a meeting of the inter-agency coordinating committee for Habitat III. The first integration segment of the Economic and Social Council was held in May 2014, focusing on sustainable urbanization and leading to the adoption of resolution 2014/30.

16. UN-Habitat continued to directly support the Office of the Secretary-General in the areas of urbanization and human settlements development, with an emphasis on climate change, land legislation, governance and youth. UN-Habitat, in partnership with city networks and a wide range of other partners, is working on follow-up initiatives stemming from the 2014 Summit on Climate Change: the Compact of Mayors and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance.

17. The Rule of Law Unit of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General requested UN-Habitat to develop a guidance note on how the Organization could be better fit for purpose to address land and conflict at scale. UN-Habitat is leading the first scoping phase, with strong support from the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. UN-Habitat has continued to support both the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on land and property issues. UN-Habitat remained an active partner in the European Union-United Nations Partnership on Land, Natural Resources and Conflict Prevention and was a co-drafter of the strategic paper to guide the next phase, which includes a stronger regional focus on the Great Lakes. Furthermore, in 2013–2014, the organization provided assistance in the implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region in areas related to land management, energy and urban youth livelihoods.

18. Youth development is a key area of joint United Nations action. UN-Habitat contributed to the World Conference on Youth, held in Sri Lanka in May 2014, as well as the mission to Mogadishu of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in September 2014 to raise awareness of the critical situation facing the youth demographic in Somalia. The first Global Forum on Youth Policies was convened in Baku by the Office of the Envoy, in partnership with the Government of Azerbaijan, UN-Habitat and other United Nations agencies.

19. Through the Regional Coordination Mechanism mandated by the Economic and Social Council, UN-Habitat has been actively engaged in the Asia-Pacific Mechanism, participating in numerous high-level meetings during the reporting period and playing an active role in the thematic working groups on environment and disaster risk management. The agency was also represented at the meetings of the Africa Mechanism, including the retreat on African Union-United Nations collaboration in support of emerging issues, especially implementation of the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014–2017 and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

IV. Cooperation with specific offices, departments, agencies, funds, programmes and other entities within the United Nations system

20. UNAIDS and UN-Habitat published a report on HIV in cities in 2014. The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the HIV epidemic in urban areas in developing countries, focusing on intra-urban differences, and to introduce a programmatic framework for action by cities. A meeting held in Paris in December 2014 attended by French mayors and representatives of UNAIDS and UN-Habitat, among others, adopted the Paris Declaration entitled "Fast-track cities: ending the AIDS epidemic".

21. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, UN-Women and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) implemented the joint initiative Safe and Friendly Cities for All to support urban safety in public spaces in eight cities: Dushanbe, Metro Manila, Greater Beirut, Marrakesh, Morocco, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, San José and Tegucigalpa. The initiative draws on the use of innovative, gender-sensitive and evidence-based approaches. It will enable local authorities and women's, youth and children's advocates to take action to increase safety and prevent and reduce violence, including sexual violence and harassment of women and girls.

22. UN-Habitat has collaborated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in developing the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the widespread adoption of electric mobility in cities. It is hoped that by 2030, electric light-duty vehicles will have captured 30 per cent of the market.

23. UN-Habitat continues to be involved at the senior level in the activities of the Environment Management Group, as well as at the technical level in the activities of its Issues Management Groups on Biodiversity and on Green Economy. A system-wide strategy on environment, progress on United Nations agency-wide reduction of carbon emissions and the need to reassess the objectives of the Group after the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda were discussed at the meeting of the Environment Management Group in September 2014.

24. UN-Habitat also continues to work in close collaboration with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. A member of the Permanent Forum participated in the round table on indigenous issues in cities at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, and UN-Habitat participated at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014.

25. FAO and UN-Habitat continued to work together in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, in the Context of National Food Security, endorsed by the Committee on Food Security in 2012. The joint development of an urban application of the Guidelines is ongoing, as is the mainstreaming of the Guidelines in the work of the Global Land Tool Network and FAO programming at all levels.

26. UN-Habitat is working with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on strengthening land and natural resource tenure security in Eastern and Southern Africa. In 2013, UN-Habitat and IFAD signed a three-year agreement to develop and integrate pro-poor tools and approaches for securing land and natural resource rights into the Fund's natural resources management programmes.

27. UN-Habitat was formally admitted as an observer at the Council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the Council's 105th session in 2014. UN-Habitat has also committed to deepening the working relationships with IOM in country-level operations and at the policy level, especially during preparations for the Ministerial Conference on migrants and cities to be held in 2015 and Habitat III. Ongoing joint projects at the country level in Nepal, Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Iraq and Mozambique included work on land issues, shelter reconstruction, reducing disaster risk and advisory work on resilient architecture.

28. UN-Habitat is participating in preparations for the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Japan in 2015. UN-Habitat also participates in the partnerships formed to implement UNISDR and with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on the Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience programme in Lusophone Africa to increase the capacities of municipalities to respond to disasters.

29. UNICEF supports UN-Habitat in a series of risk reduction projects, including risk reduction and human security projects in Mozambique and Madagascar. In Mozambique, the work involves revision of building codes and school construction norms, as well as development of risk reduction school curricula and post-disaster needs assessment tools.

30. ECA re-established an Urban Section in an effort to strengthen its work on urbanization as a key factor in the structural transformation of Africa. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between UN-Habitat and ECA signed in 2012, UN-Habitat continued to support the consortium for the Land Policy Initiative, which is also supported by the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission. UN-Habitat is part of the Steering Committee of the Initiative and has led the component on capacity development on land governance, with the aim of supporting Member States in implementing the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa adopted by African Union Heads of State in 2009.

31. Furthermore, UN-Habitat is working closely with ECA and the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urbanization and Decentralization on implementation of the African Urban Agenda, including preparation of national Habitat III reports, capacity-building for Habitat Agenda partners at subregional level, policy dialogues and applied research in support of the preparation and adoption of the Africa Regional Habitat III report and position. It is expected that this partnership will raise the profile of urbanization and strengthen partnerships between State and non-State actors towards the adoption of a new urban agenda.

32. In 2013, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), implemented an initiative, funded by the Development Account, to assess the vulnerability of cities to climate and articulate adaptation options in three cities in Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. A quick guide was developed for wider dissemination in the Asia-Pacific region. ESCAP and UN-Habitat also launched a land tenure initiative for the Asia-Pacific region. The agencies also held a multi-stakeholder consultation, in partnership with FAO and the International Federation of Surveyors. Additionally, UN-Habitat, with the support of ESCAP, will build the capacity of Habitat Agenda partners to engage in policy dialogues and programmes in the Asia-Pacific region within the context of global milestones.

33. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) collaborated on a report on measuring housing deficits in the Latin American region. Key findings and case studies were presented at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum. ECLAC also contributed to the workplan for the formulation of the national policy for the system of cities and to the strengthening of the Association of Colombian Cities.

34. Since mid-2014, UN-Habitat has been strengthening its collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The agency participated in the twenty-eighth ESCWA ministerial session held in Tunis in September 2014 and the expert group meeting on inclusive social development in the Arab region held in Beirut in November 2014, which gave insight into the role of cities in promoting social and spatial inclusion. In addition, UN-Habitat is contributing to the chapter on urban sustainability for an ESCWA report on sustainable development in the Arab region UNESCWA will be involved in the last phase of elaboration of the Arab strategy for housing and sustainable urban development, developed by UN-Habitat, and will also lead the regional preparations for Habitat III.

35. UN-Habitat has contributed technical and capacity development assistance in the field of sustainable urban development to UNESCO for the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and the UNESCO Global Learning Cities Index. UNESCO also continued to contribute to the UN-Habitat-led Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance.

36. In March 2013, the Executive Directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat reviewed the organizations' collaboration and explored how to strengthen future partnership and joint delivery of programmes. Based on that review, the Greener Cities Partnership was launched at the World Urban Forum in April 2014. The agencies facilitated the formation of the secretariat of the Africa Sustainable Transport Forum, with the first expert and ministerial conferences held in Nairobi in October 2014. UN-Habitat and UNEP are also co-Chairs of the Steering Committee of the Global Wastewater Initiative. A unified post-2015 monitoring framework is being developed with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. At the country level, in Kenya, the agencies are supporting the National Climate Change Action Plan, with funding from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for a joint project to reduce emissions by the transport sector in Kenya's major cities. In Asia, the agencies are partnering on a proposal for ecosystem-based climate change adaptation in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

37. UN-Habitat participated in key climate change-related dialogues during the reporting period. These included the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Warsaw in 2013; a technical meeting of experts from least developed countries, convened under the auspices of the Convention, on national adaptation

plans; the Forum on Experiences and Best Practices of Cities and Subnational Authorities in Relation to Adaptation and Mitigation, held in Bonn in 2014 and chaired by the Deputy Director of UN-Habitat, and the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Lima in 2014.

38. UN-Habitat is currently supporting the implementation of two projects funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, where UNEP is acting as the GEF Agency and UN-Habitat is an executing partner. The East African projects focus on sustainable transport and promoting energy efficiency in buildings. GEF and UN-Habitat were represented at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative and at an advisory meeting on the GEF Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot, respectively. GEF is listed as a partner in the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance.

39. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context has collaborated with UN-Habitat on promoting the responsibilities of Governments with respect to the right to adequate housing, including by addressing homelessness. Specifically, UN-Habitat has provided inputs on tenure security, including to a report of the Special Rapporteur on security of tenure, including for the urban poor (A/HR/22/46). UN-Habitat also provided input to the handbook *Realizing the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation* written by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on safe drinking water and sanitation.

40. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UN-Habitat signed a general Memorandum of Understanding on the promotion of cleaner urban industries and technologies through joint technical cooperation projects and programmes.

41. UN-Habitat strengthened its collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The two agencies expanded joint work on housing rights/forced evictions to include OHCHR support to the institutional mainstreaming of the human rights-based approach to sustainable urban development. They jointly published Fact Sheet No. 25/Rev.1, Forced Evictions, produced a video clip on forced evictions and issued and widely disseminated the report *Losing Your Home: Assessing the Impact of Eviction* in 2014. The two organizations also collaborate on research into human rights in the areas of transport, energy and drainage.

42. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at its twenty-second session and the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session adopted complementary resolutions on action for the creation of safer cities, in particular the strengthening of guidelines for the implementation of crime prevention programmes at the local level and the development of United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities. In addition, joint project documents on urban safety monitoring for Africa and Latin America for 2016 and 2017 have been developed. An additional joint programme document on safer cities as a way of supporting Member States and implementing the post-2015 development agenda is under preparation in cooperation with the World Bank.

43. UNOPS continues to provide key support to UN-Habitat on the Global Land Tool Network project and other projects implemented in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in Brazil and Saudi Arabia.

44. UN-Habitat co-chaired, with UNFPA, IOM and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, two technical retreats, held in Geneva, to build consensus with civil society actors on and develop indicators for sustainable urbanization. This is one of the four priority areas for action within the issue of population dynamics considered by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

45. UN-Habitat is working with the United Nations Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group to explore how to promote the integration of human rights and the rule of law as a cross-cutting issue in all organizations; how to promote system-wide cooperation on rule of law and human rights issues, including cross-posting of staff; and common resource and administrative approaches.

46. UN-Habitat is a member of the World Bank Group's advisory committee on the Land Governance Assessment Framework and the two organizations continue to collaborate in the implementation of the Framework at the country level, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq. The two organizations are also developing and testing a framework, methods and tools to assess and monitor land issues, with a specific focus on tenure security, developing building codes for resilience and sustainable urban development, and partnering on measurement, research and capacity-building efforts. A set of global indicators on land and tenure security is being developed to

inform the post-2015 development agenda and a feasibility study for data collection at country level has been undertaken.

47. UN-Habitat and the World Health Organization (WHO) expanded their partnership on urban health matters for normative and field operations, particularly in the following priority areas: reduction of the health impacts of short-lived air pollutants involving local governments; urban design and planning and their impact on prevention/control of non-communicable diseases; strategic interventions in sanitation, waste management and drainage in urban areas; disease risk assessments in urban areas; and water/sanitation interventions in urban emergencies. UN-Habitat has also been called upon by WHO and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to provide specialist urban expertise in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, in particular to help improve the response in urban areas, considered to be essential to overcome the crisis.

V. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and development institutions outside the United Nations system

48. UN-Habitat supported the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, which took place in February 2014 in N'Djamena. The institutionalization of the Conference under the Africa Union was finalized in July 2014 with the establishment of an eighth Specialized Technical Committee, on public service, local government, urbanization and decentralization.

49. UN-Habitat continues to participate regularly in the meetings of the League of Arab States Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction and its Technical Advisory Committee. Moreover, UN-Habitat and the League created a joint committee, also composed of representatives of Arab States, to support the elaboration of an Arab strategy for housing and urban development. The League and UN-Habitat are also collaborating in the development and launch of the Arab Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, expected to be held in Egypt in 2015. The League will be a key regional partner in preparations for Habitat III.

50. UN-Habitat is working in close collaboration with the African Union through the African Urban Agenda, including a presidential initiative led by the Presidents of Ghana and Nigeria to promote urbanization as a transformative force for Africa's development within the context of Agenda 2063 and to strengthen the continent's participation in achieving the global milestones of the post-2015 development agenda, Habitat III and the sustainable development goals, among others. On this premise, UN-Habitat will be supporting the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Services, Local Government, Urbanization and Decentralization. A conference was held in December 2013 to launch this partnership, which aims to strengthen the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the promotion of sustainable urbanization in the region.

51. The Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States initiated the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, which UN-Habitat implements in 34 ACP countries. The Secretariat contributed to high-level events, in particular the seventh session of the World Urban Forum and the second International Tripartite Conference on Sustainable Urbanization for Urban Poverty Eradication, held in Kigali in September 2013. The tripartite partnership is composed of the ACP countries, the European Commission and UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat also supported the Fifth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Seoul in November 2014 with the theme "Equal opportunity for sustainable development".

52. The European Union has supported UN-Habitat programme implementation in Indonesia, India, South Africa, Brazil (development of urban low emission strategies), Afghanistan (settlement upgrading and integration of internally displaced persons), Sri Lanka (housing reconstruction), Somalia (water provision and employment creation), Nepal (sustainable housing), the State of Palestine (housing rehabilitation, urban planning), Myanmar (climate change) and Haiti (reconstruction), in addition to the 34 ACP countries under a slum upgrading programme.

53. In order to strengthen their partnership, UN-Habitat and the European Union Committee of the Regions renewed their Memorandum of Understanding in October 2013, with the aim of promoting, at the level of subnational governments and local authorities, the concept of socially and environmentally sustainable towns, cities and regions. There has continued to be a high level of cooperation between UN-Habitat and the European Parliament since the Brussels Urban Declaration of 2011. Following the meeting of the Conference of Presidents on 11 December 2014, the URBAN Intergroup was officially re-established in the European Parliament for the period 2014–2019.

54. UN-Habitat has supported the drafting of the European Commission urban development cooperation strategy and conducted policy dialogues with different services of the Commission on urban development and climate change, land tenure and the post-2015 development agenda. In 2013, UN-Habitat was for the first time included as a permanent observer at the meetings of the European Union Urban Development Group, the subsequent meetings of directors-general and the ministerial meetings. This will be instrumental in preparing the European contribution to Habitat III.

55. UN-Habitat and the Commonwealth Secretariat jointly mobilized youth representatives to contribute to the development of youth indicators for the post-2015 development agenda recommended for inclusion in the sustainable development goals.

56. UN-Habitat has been working in collaboration with the Ministers of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (known by its Spanish acronym, MINURVI) and ECLAC to produce a report on measuring the housing deficit in the region. The final report was presented at the twenty-third meeting of the MINURVI General Assembly, held in August 2014 in Mexico City. UN-Habitat continued to support the General and Technical Secretariat of MINURVI in developing its technical agenda.

VI. Cooperation with development partners and financial institutions

57. The Japan International Cooperation Agency has supported UN-Habitat in large-scale activities in conflict and emergency areas, particularly Afghanistan, Myanmar and South Sudan. The Government of the Netherlands has committed funding for UN-Habitat technical support for durable solutions for the resettlement and integration of refugees and internally displaced persons in post-crisis contexts, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic. A new partnership has developed between UN-Habitat and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) around sustainable urban interventions in complex conflict settings in three Syrian cities.

58. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has supported UN-Habitat in both internal agency initiatives as well as operations in several countries, including Cuba, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia and the Syrian Arab Republic. At the agency level, support has gone towards improving audit systems and developing UN-Habitat anti-corruption framework. At the country level, Sida has provided strong support for the creation of urban profiles in the Syrian Arab Republic to maintain a current assessment of urban needs by mapping and profiling the impact of the Syrian crisis and looking at the situation of internally displaced persons. In Liberia, Sida has also supported a land commission development project focusing on regularization and tenure issues.

59. UN-Habitat signed a cooperation agreement with the African Development Bank in September 2014 to implement joint activities in the field of housing.

60. The Development Bank of Latin America is part of a coalition supporting the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative in 17 Colombian cities and is the main supporter of the Initiative in five cities in Brazil, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. The National Workers Housing Fund Institute of Mexico has provided critical support, along with the Government of Mexico, for the City Prosperity Initiative in 130 cities.

61. UN-Habitat is involved in a project funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for improving land policies and land management in member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. The Canada International Development Agency supports a project in South Sudan with the objectives of strengthening land coordination mechanisms at the national and state government levels; improving public awareness of land-related laws; increasing the capacity of the South Sudan Land Commission, with emphasis on increasing capacity for land dispute management in selected states; and land administration.

62. UN-Habitat also worked with the Inter-American Development Bank through the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. The Bank was represented at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum and at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative.

VII. Cooperation with local authorities

63. In addition to active engagement in initiatives with local authority associations, UN-Habitat continued to work directly with local governments. As part of the development of a post-natural disaster emergency urban programme for the Philippines, the agency developed formal partnerships with local government officials for the coordination of humanitarian response and recovery, with support from Saudi Arabia. In Brazil, UN-Habitat worked with the Sao Paulo Agency for Metropolitan

Planning on informal settlement regularization, slum upgrading and municipal management. In Colombia, a proposal to develop a strategic vision for the city with the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota is under development. UN-Habitat has worked with cities in El Salvador to support municipal urban planning through decentralized cooperation and extended policy advice on the provision of public services and use of public spaces.

64. UN-Habitat has been working closely with the Global Taskforce of Regional and Local Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III. In March 2013, at a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, members of the Global Taskforce approved the first set of priorities of local and regional governments. So far, 171 cities have voiced their support for the urban sustainable development goal adopted by the Open Working Group. The Chair of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities authorized a postponement of the scheduled thematic work programme of the Committee to support the post-2015 and Habitat III processes. At the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, it was decided that a resolution would be presented at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to refine the focus of the Committee so that it can better contribute to those processes. At the project level, the Committee has developed a programme in collaboration with the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy to develop a training curriculum for local government officials.

65. UN-Habitat continued its long-standing relationship with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, with which the agency jointly implemented a project on promoting low emission urban development strategies in emerging economies. ICLEI also joined the Climate Summit initiatives the Compact of Mayors and the Cities Climate Change Finance Leadership Alliance.

66. Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat worked on the preparation of several urban development tools for slum upgrading and housing. At the country level, Cities Alliance co-funded an initiative aimed at providing security of tenure to slum dwellers in Uganda through the use of the Social Tenure Domain Model. This work is set to be replicated in other countries.

67. In the Arab region, UN-Habitat worked closely with the Arab Towns Organization in the areas of monitoring post-2015 sustainable development agenda targets, the elaboration of an Arab strategy for housing and sustainable urban development and regional preparations for Habitat III.

68. UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments. In November 2014, a memorandum of understanding between the agency and the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section was signed, framing their cooperation and joint activities. The Section is a key UN-Habitat partner for the regional Habitat III preparations. UN-Habitat is also in partnership with the Africa Chapter of United Cities and Local Governments to promote the preparation of national Habitat III reports. All national associations of local governments were notified, mobilized and sent the relevant documentation and information to support their participation in and contributions to their countries' reports.

69. UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federation for Latin American Cities in order to provide technical cooperation on the pillars of the New Urban Agenda, to be decided at Habitat III, and on the development of their positions on sustainable urban development in the region. Similarly, it continued its work with the regional association Mercociudades and the Colombian Federation of Municipalities.

VIII. Cooperation with private sector organizations

70. UN-Habitat continued to engage private sector organizations on strategies for strengthening corporate commitment and contributions to urban development activities. A new normative framework established by UN-Habitat has provided opportunities to expand partnerships in technical activities such as urban planning and design (Siemens), urban basic services (Arcadis), youth and urban economy (Great North Korea Ltd.), housing and slum upgrading (Lafarge) and urban policy and legislation (Booyoung Co. Ltd.). This has also allowed UN-Habitat to strengthen collaboration on corporate social responsibility-related projects in the areas of slum upgrading, urban safety, post-disaster intervention and youth and women's issues in human settlements (BASF Foundation).

71. Several private sector partners supported UN-Habitat urban development work from an information and communications technology perspective. A partnership agreement signed in March 2014 with Ericsson aims to implement a joint programme that will explore the role of information and communications technology in sustainable urbanization. The agency's partnership with the gaming company Mojang focuses on development of a tool to enable communities to participate in designing public spaces. A memorandum of understanding signed with Microsoft in 2014 focuses on joint data visualization projects.

IX. Cooperation with civil society organizations

72. UN-Habitat continues to emphasize partnerships with civil society, including youth and women's organizations, both at a policy level and in project implementation. The civil society organizations round table at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum was attended by nearly 1,000 partners. It was one of the most successful events at the Forum, providing valuable interaction between UN-Habitat and its constituencies. UN-Habitat strives to pursue its mission and empower the urban poor by leveraging and developing the expertise of local organizations. At the project level, a total of 958 legal agreements were signed with civil society organizations as implementing partners, most of them operating at the regional and country levels. In the Latin American region, for instance, local/regional civil society organizations are supporting UN-Habitat in the implementation of youth entrepreneurship and public space initiatives in Brazil, professional services for small and medium enterprises in Colombia and housing construction in El Salvador. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and UN-Habitat are implementing a joint initiative to establish the first regional shelter cluster support hub in Panama to provide shelter and related technical advice to country clusters in urban humanitarian crises in Latin American and the Caribbean.

73. In 2014 the Youth Advisory Board acted in a normative capacity by consulting and providing guidance to the activities of the agency, including the World Urban Campaign, the Urban Thinkers Campus and the Youth Assembly at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum. The Board has also provided substantive advice to the Urban Youth Fund in its grant selection process. At the project level, the UN-Habitat Urban Youth Fund supported 27 youth-led organizations in the Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region during the reporting period. All have been allocated grants to implement projects focused on issues concerning gender equality, urban space, legislation and governance as well as risk reduction and rehabilitation.

74. Numerous civil society organizations supported UN-Habitat in implementing global initiatives, including for the Global Land Tool Network, which involves multiple actors. The Youth-led Action Research on Land project was initiated by UN-Habitat in partnership with the Network in 2013 to strengthen the knowledge base on youth and land.

X. Cooperation with professionals

75. UN-Habitat continues to work with the Habitat Professionals Forum, a platform of international professional associations of urban practitioners established after the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). UN-Habitat is also collaborating globally with planners' associations. The Global Planners Network, the Commonwealth Association of Planners, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the Association of African Planning Schools actively promoted UN-Habitat urban planning principles. ISOCARP and the Commonwealth Association of Planners are playing an important role in the development of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning. At the regional level, collaboration has been established with the Caribbean Planners Association to strengthen exchanges and offer training opportunities as well as to support the establishment of national associations across the region. Collaboration at the country level was continued with several associations, including with the national and local planning associations of Italy, the Netherlands, Kenya, South Africa and China. This included engagement in forums organized by planners on urban development, planning and public space.

XI. Cooperation with academic, research and training institutions

76. UN-Habitat continued to partner with academic, research and training institutions globally in the implementation of its work programme. Through the Habitat Partner University Initiative, the agency organized with Habitat Agenda partners at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum training events on sustainable urban development, the City Prosperity Index, urban income inequalities, citywide slum upgrading and housing the poor in Africa. In the area of urban planning, collaborations that expanded during the reporting period included a partnership with a consortium of 10 German universities and another with 10 Kenyan universities. Numerous institutions also work with UN-Habitat through the Global Land Tool Network across regions.

77. In the area of urban legislation and governance, the agency is partnering with the University of London Institute for Advanced Legal Studies on training and capacity development projects to build the profile of urban development as an essential ingredient of sustainable development. UN-Habitat is also currently developing an urban law and equity programme that will feed into undergraduate and Master's programmes at the Institute. The programme will also be available to other stakeholders.

such as local governments, to build capacity around the impact and importance of urban law in sustainable urban development. Furthermore, the agency has been working on its urban law database, Urban Lex, through partnerships with law departments and institutions globally.

XII. Cooperation with parliamentarians

78. Following the adoption by its Board of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Charter in April 2013, UN-Habitat has renewed its efforts to engage with parliamentarians. This led to the parliamentarians' commitment to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and their expression of support for future major events such as Habitat III. In the Latin American region, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Mexico and UN-Habitat have partnered over the past two years promoting integral urban strategies for the consolidation of cities and encouraging the development of the "Sustainable cities" theme among parliamentarians.

XIII. Cooperation within coalitions of multiple partner types

79. In the last two years, having recognized the strategic importance of Habitat III to raising the visibility of the urban agenda, the World Urban Campaign has asserted itself as a platform for increasing awareness on sustainable urbanization challenges and building consensus towards a New Urban Agenda. The World Urban Campaign is composed of 88 organizations and networks representing all Habitat Agenda partner groups. Forty-two of these organizations joined in 2013–2014, including 10 that signed Memorandums of Understanding with UN-Habitat (9 lead partners and 1 sponsor). At the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Steering Committee of the Campaign, held in Medellin, Colombia, and Caserta, Italy, respectively, partners proposed a road map to Habitat III.

80. The Global Network on Safer Cities is a platform of local authorities and other urban partners to engage in dialogue and debate on crime prevention in cities. The Network's first Steering Committee meeting, held in New York in March 2013, led to the integration of the safer cities agenda within associations of local authorities, including Citynet, United Cities and Local Governments and Metropolis.

81. UN-Habitat is working with Habitat Agenda partners in coordinating implementation of the Global Housing Strategy to the Year 2025. A global review, including regional assessments and a road map for the Strategy framework document, has been completed. UN-Habitat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Habitat for Humanity International and has engaged with United Nations regional commissions (Economic Commission for Europe, ESCAP and ECLAC) to contribute to the formulation of regional housing strategies. UN-Habitat, through its Housing Profiles programme, is working with partners on conducting thorough analyses of national and regional housing sectors to develop housing profiles that support the formulation of national policy. The agency is also coordinating the implementation of joint activities on green and sustainable housing within the framework of the Global Network for Sustainable Housing.

82. Through the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, UN-Habitat took part in the June 2013 meeting of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments on Biodiversity. The Committee voted to adopt land-use planning as one of three triennial programme priorities. As a wider outcome, at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyongyang in October 2014, the Advisory Committee successfully advocated for the adoption of a decision to prioritize urban and peri-urban spatial planning. UN-Habitat also took part in the Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments, held in parallel to the twelfth meeting, which adopted the Gangwon Declaration in support of sustainable cities and biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda.

83. Launched in April 2014, the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience includes UN-Habitat, the UNISDR secretariat, the World Bank Group, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, 100 Resilient Cities and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. The goal of the collaboration is to leverage relevant expertise of partner organizations in a variety of key areas.

84. The inaugural conference on the Strengthening Partnerships for a New African Urban Agenda project was held in Nairobi in December 2013 and brought together representatives of 37 sub-Saharan African countries. During the three-day conference, Habitat Agenda partners and State actors discussed ways of achieving a platform for working together in pursuit of sustainable urbanization for Africa. Ministers from Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda were in attendance.

XIV. Conclusions

85. United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and all Habitat Agenda partners share concern for the challenges that urbanization poses and share the idea that urbanization creates opportunities. The successful creation of coalitions, the alignment of efforts and the leveraging of the strengths of the partners must underpin the path towards Habitat III and the development of the post-2015 development agenda and the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat work with partners in 2013–2014 led to greater awareness of the centrality of sustainable urban development concerns within and outside the United Nations system and of the need to mobilize new partners to broaden the coalition necessary to push the New Urban Agenda forward. The successes described above demonstrate that UN-Habitat is fit to fulfil its mandate to lead the United Nations system in achieving sustainable urban development goals after 2015.